

## **Riverbend/Carrollton Area Restaurant Guide**

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Tulane Law Library

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### **Restaurant ratings by local food critic Tom Fitzmorris:**

**\*\*\*\*\*--Among the best restaurants in the New Orleans area.**

**\*\*\*\*--Excellent and ambitious.**

**\*\*\*--Good enough to go out of your way to try.**

**\*\*--Recommended.**

**\*--Acceptable.**

**No symbol--Not reviewed.**

### **Cost of average entree:**

**\$: \$10 or less**

**\$\$: \$10-20**

**\$\$\$: \$20 or more**

#### **Babylon Cafe \*\*\***

7724 Maple St.

314-0010

Babylon's menu selections of kebabs, dips and vegetarian dishes are all available with fresh pita bread, but this Uptown café has earned distinction for its special rolls. Served hot and crusty, they provide a different approach to the familiar Middle Eastern standards and are perfect with a plate of hummus or baba ghanoush. No reservations. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$

#### **Basil Leaf \*\*\***

1438 S. Carrollton Ave.

862-9001

This restaurant is a favorite destination for those looking to spice things up with Thai cuisine. Try grilled chicken coconut soup, followed by a traditional mussaman curry with potatoes, peanuts and jasmine rice. Take advantage of half-priced wine specials on Tuesday, and two-for-one sake on Thursday. Reservations recommended. Dinner daily. Credit cards. \$\$

#### **Brigtsen's Restaurant \*\*\*\***

723 Dante St.

861-7610, <http://www.brigtsens.com>

Located in a converted Riverbend home with dining rooms separated by pre-existing walls, Brigtsen's is perfect for a romantic dinner or an intimate gathering. Dishes change daily, but one familiar entrée is the slow-roasted half of a duck served with cornbread dressing and honey-pecan gravy. Brigtsen's seafood platter, referred to as the "Shell Beach diet," is a regular special that rounds up seasonally fresh ingredients and offers them grilled, broiled or sautéed but never fried. Reservations recommended. Dinner Tue.-Sat. Credit cards. \$\$\$

#### **Bruno's Tavern**

7583 Maple St.

861-7615, <http://www.brunostavern.com>

A popular hang-out for both college students and those who shelved their textbooks long ago, Bruno's has been slinging drinks and helping college students blow off steam since 1934. The tavern's ever-expanding menu is available throughout the day and includes such temptations as Boudreaux cheese fries made with sweet potato fries smothered with roast beef debris, gravy and blue cheese — all broiled with golden raisins and spiced pecans. No reservations. Lunch, dinner and late-night daily. Credit cards. \$

Cafe Freret

7329 Freret St.

861-7890

A casual spot for a meal morning, noon, or night, Cafe Freret puts a spell in its regulars with the chef's voodoo burger - a half pound of ground chuck with sauteed onions and mushrooms smothered in the house "bomb" sauce and topped with bacon, provolone and your choice of fixings. For an even heartier serving, the "New Orleans steakbomb" delivers a portion of tender shaved steak with Swiss cheese, onions, mushrooms and bell peppers on toasted French bread. No reservations. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner Fri.-Wed. Credit Cards. \$\$

Cafe Nino \*\*\*

1510 S. Carrollton Ave.

865-9200

Though most of the pizza at Cafe Nino is thin crusted, order ahead for the thick crust Sicilian pie, which takes an hour to cook. Entrees include Italian dishes like baked ziti, spaghetti, various meat and pasta combinations, and calzones. For sandwiches there are Philly cheesesteaks, meatball subs, and chicken sandwiches. No reservations. Lunch and dinner daily. Checks. \$

Cafe Volage \*\*\*

720 Dublin St.

861-4227

Tucked into the Riverbend, this romantic restaurant features hearty continental fare, including escargot to start and house specials osso buco and lamb shank for entrees. The menu rounds out with a variety of fish, fowl, and meats, including red snapper, duck, quail, and rib-eye steak. Dinner Mon.-Sat. Credit Cards \$\$

China Orchid \*\*\*

704 S. Carrollton Ave.

865-1428

All the perennial favorites make an appearance at China Orchid: pot stickers and pepper steak; egg drop soup and moo goo gai pan; Crab Rangoon and General Tsao's Chicken, among a multitude of others. Luncheon specials are accompanied by an egg roll and fried rice, and -for another buck-some soup. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily. Credit Cards. \$

Cold Stone Creamery

624 S. Carrollton Ave.

218-8900

Cold Stone makes their own ice cream in store daily. Orders are blended with mixed in items like candy or nuts on a granite stone to order. Shakes and smoothies are also available and Cold Stone makes ice cream cakes as well. No reservations. 11a.m.-10p.m. Sun.-Thu., 11a.m.-11p.m. fri.-Sat. Credit Cards. \$

#### Cooter Brown's

509 S. Carrollton Ave.

866-9104

With football and oyster season both now in full swing, Cooter's is a favorite local home for consuming both. Fried seafood, burgers, wings, grilled alligator sausage and sandwiches are all prepared by the kitchen. No reservations. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit Cards. \$

#### Crepes a la Cart

1039 Broadway St.

866-2362

"Sweet or savory?" is only the first of many choices you'll need to make at this Uptown creperie. Located near the Tulane campus, Crepes a la Cart offers dozens and dozens of crepes perfect for any meal. Among the breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert crepes, there are also vegetarian options and seasonal varieties. No reservations. Breakfast and lunch dinner, dinner Mon.-Fri. Credit Cards. \$

#### Dante's Kitchen \*\*\*

736 Dante St.

861-3121, <http://www.danteskitchen.com>

The blackboard near the front door lets guests know right away just how many local farmers and food suppliers this intimate Riverbend cottage is using from day to day. That local commitment shows up in the Louisiana flavors of the menu, from the grilled Gulf shrimp and stone-ground grits with andouille red-eye gravy to the housemade paté to the redfish topped with crabmeat and herbs. The lush patio is the perfect perch for brunch on nice days. Reservations recommended. Dinner Wed.-Mon., brunch Sat-Sun. Credit cards and checks. \$\$\$

#### Dunbar's Creole Cooking

501 Pine St. (Loyola University Broadway Activities Center)

861-5451

Renowned soul food chef Celestine Dunbar's famously filling meals of fried chicken, red beans, gumbo and breakfast pork chops are still available, even though her former Freret Street location was inundated after Katrina. She has set up shop in an activities center at Loyola University, which is open to the public. No reservations. Breakfast, lunch and dinner Mon.-Fri. Credit cards. \$

#### Five Happiness \*\*\*

3605 S. Carrollton Ave.,

482-3935, <http://www.fivehappiness.com>

The always-happening Five Happiness specializes in regional Chinese cuisine for dining in, pick-up or delivery. Daily lunch specials include a choice of soup, shrimp fried rice and a fried wonton. For dinner, try the Triple Dragon, a trio of chicken, beef and shrimp simmering in hot garlic sauce. All dishes can be altered for preferred heat level. No reservations. Lunch and dinner Mon.-Sat. Credit cards. \$\$

Fresco's Cafe and Pizzeria

7625 Maple St.

862-6363, <http://www.frescocafe.us>

Pizza is the hallmark here, but don't forget about Fresco's Middle Eastern specialties like the Greek salad or the spinach and feta triangles. Try the chicken portobello stromboli with mozzarella, portobello mushrooms and a spicy red pepper sauce, or the popular Italian stromboli with sausage and cheese. Daily specials. Reservations for big parties only. Delivery available. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$

Gelato Pazzo Cafe

8115 Oak St.

304-6908, <http://www.gelatopazzo.com>

Italian flavors inform the menu at Gelato Pazzo, from the housemade gelatos to the panini sandwiches. While the café always offers new gelato flavors, some of the regulars include chocolate chip, vanilla, blood orange and Fruits of the Forest, which blends blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. Panini sandwiches are grilled on ciabatta bread and include the Caprese with tomato, mozzarella and basil on toasted bread. The prosciutto, mozzarella and cappicola ham is a popular sandwich. There are also salads and daily hot specials like eggplant Parmesan. No reservations. Lunch and dinner Mon.-Sat. Credit cards. \$

Hana Japanese Restaurant \*\*\*

8116 Hampson St.

865-1634

This neighborhood sushi bar offers a refreshing respite for shoppers from the many nearby boutiques or an energizing stop before a night out on the town. Hana is known for extra-large special rolls using combinations of salmon, tuna, snow crab, cucumber, avocado, egg and shrimp tempura. You can always challenge the sushi chef to surprise you with his own creations. Reservations for large parties. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$\$

Iris \*\*\*\*

8115 Jeannette St.

862-5848, <http://www.irisneworleans.com>

The intimate dining room at Iris is a cozy setting for the classical French dishes and occasional Asian accents of Chef Ian Schnoebelen. Try an appetizer like the green peppercorn-crusting yellowfin tuna with baby greens, prosciutto, cornichons, nicoise olives and white balsamic vinaigrette. An entrée of Arctic char is seared until the skin is crispy and served with water spinach, hedgehog mushrooms, tomato petals and dill butter. Vegetarians can indulge in the chef's daily selections, and the bar turns out innovative cocktail recipes using fresh fruit. Reservations recommended. Dinner Mon.-Sat. Credit cards. \$\$\$

Jacques-Imo's Cafe \*\*\*

8324 Oak St

861-0886, <http://www.jacquesimoscafe.com>

With its boisterous barroom, exposed kitchen and clutter of murals and folk art, Jacques Imo's lets it all hang out while the menu is full of bold flavors and over-the-top combinations. The smoked boudin is a locally made blend of rice, pork, ground beef, green onions and spices that is served with a Creole mustard sauce. The Creole grits and grillades feature two sautéed veal cutlets simmered in a seasoned stock and served over stone-ground grits. Reservations accepted for five or more. Dinner Mon.-Sat., late-night Fri.-Sat. Credit cards. \$\$\$

Jamila's Café \*\*\*

7808 Maple St., New Orleans, LA

866-4366

Mediterranean and Tunisian specialties abound at this intimate and welcoming café in the university area. The merguez lamb sausage and refreshing zucchini and crawfish bisque are house specialties. The steamed mussels are worthy of note, and the couscous dishes are an especially rare treat. On Saturday nights, a belly dancer adds more excitement to the already lively scene, and occasionally even chef Jamila joins the dancing in the dining room. Reservations recommended. Dinner Tue.-Sun. Credit cards. \$\$

Jay's Bubble Tea Cafe

7638 Maple St.

866-6022, <http://www.myspace.com/jayscafé>

There's no other beverage in the world quite like bubble tea, and there's no other place on Maple Street quite like Jay's Bubbletea Café. Specializing in the popular Taiwanese drink (which is made from hot sweetened tea, cold milk and fresh fruit, and studded with chewy tapioca pearls), the offbeat café also offers a bevy of good eats: bagels and pastries at breakfast, sandwiches and salads for lunch. No reservations. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards and checks. \$

Jazmine Cafe

614 S. Carrollton Ave.

866-9301

Asian accents inspire this Riverbend restaurant's menu. The mushroom glass noodle soup combines mushrooms, tofu and cilantro in a warm broth. The tamarind shrimp soup hits sweet and spicy notes with pineapple, shrimp, okra and jasmine rice. Reservations for large parties. Lunch and dinner Tue.-Sun. Credit cards. \$

La Madeleine

601 S. Carrollton Ave.

861-8662

Lebanon Cafe \*\*\*

1500 S. Carrollton Ave.

862-6200

With its corner location on Carrollton Avenue and big picture windows, Lebanon offers an enticing vision of garlic-laden, olive oil-slicked delights that seems to draw passersby inside for a spell. Vegetarians in particular appreciate the comprehensive sauteed plate, which includes onions, green beans, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, celery, yellow squash, zucchini and a spectrum of peppers over basmati rice with feta cheese and baked almonds. Others, of course, order generous plates of grilled meat with hummus and pita bread. No reservations. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$\$

Louisiana Pizza Kitchen \*\*\*

615 S. Carrollton Ave.,

866-5900

The Louisiana Pizza Kitchen offers gourmet pizzas like the Kitchen Sink, which piles on pepperoni, Italian sausage, bell peppers, red onions, mushrooms, Kalamata olives and mozzarella cheese. There is also a large menu of salads, pita wraps, calzones and pasta dishes. The chicken Marsala features roasted chicken with Roma tomatoes, red onions and mushrooms in a wine and pesto cream sauce, served over fettuccine and topped with Parmesan cheese. The French Quarter location offers favorites like crawfish etouffée pie and has a very large wine list. Reservations for large parties only. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$

#### Maple Street Cafe \*\*\*

7623 Maple St.

314-9003

Nestled in amongst the specialty stores and the other small neighborhood restaurants, Maple Street Cafe has been a staple restaurant for Uptown diners for many years. The menu presents guests with a nice variety of choices-appetizers like oysters almandine with a white wine lemon butter, or fresh fish Florentine served over sauteed spinach with a light herb sauce-and is satisfying for lunch and dinner. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily. Credit Cards. \$\$

#### Mat & Naddie's Restaurant \*\*\*

937 Leonidas St.

861-9600, <http://www.matandnaddies.com>

With views of the green levee just outside and the possibility of freight trains rolling past to punctuate your meal, the colorful cottage setting of Mat & Naddie's can seem like a country retreat. The cuisine is as sophisticated as any urbane bistro, however, with many mainstays like grilled salmon with pearl barley and Romano risotto or venison medallions with wild rice pancakes, braised red and white cabbage and apple demiglace. On weekdays, the restaurant features an offbeat lunch buffet with small batches of salads, pastas, meats, cheeses, soups, and other daily inspirations. Reservations. Lunch Mon.-Fri., dinner Fri., Sat., Mon. Credit Cards. \$\$

#### Mikimoto \*\*\*

3301 S. Carrollton Ave.

488-1881

Mikimoto wants to feed you its sushi and Japanese fare, whether you're dining in with sake, driving off with its 99-cent per roll lunch special, or having shrimp tempura delivered. Delivery available. Reservations recommended. Lunch and dinner daily except lunch only on Sat. \$\$

#### Oak Street Café

8140 Oak St.

866-8710, <http://www.oakstreetcafe.com>

There's not too many restaurants, even in New Orleans, where live music accompanies the food service on a daily basis, but you can get plenty of both at Oak Street. Pianist, Charles Farmer, plays jazz standards and show tunes while wait staff serve up delectable donuts, thick pancakes with pecans, or Creole spinach egg nests for breakfast. Farmer keeps his fingers moving through lunch, which features specials like meatball po-boys and fish tacos. Breakfast and lunch daily. Cash Only. \$

One Restaurant & Lounge \*\*\*

8132 Hampson St.

301-9061, <http://www.one-sl.com>

Chef Scott Snodgrass changes the menu regularly to reflect seasonal ingredients, which pleases his many customers. Among the recurring items are the char-grilled oysters with Roquefort cheese and red wine vinaigrette. For dinner and a show, take a seat at the food bar and peer into the open kitchen. Reservations accepted. Dinner Mon.-Sat. Credit Cards. \$\$

Philip Chan's Asian-Cajun Bistro \*\*\*

8400 Oak St.

522-4964, <http://www.asian-cajunbistro.com>

The founder of Chopstix in Atlanta, Philip Chan brought his inspired Chinese cooking Uptown to the Riverbend. A native of Hong Kong, Chan presents regional Chinese cooking, from the fancier presentations of Hong Kong to the spicier Szechuan dishes. Some favorites include large prawns in a bird's nest of fried noodles, or an appetizer of wok-fried, Cajun spiced crawfish served with an Asian chili sauce. The menu includes salads, rice and noodle dishes, steak and seafood entrees and ice cream tempura for dessert. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily. Credit Cards. \$\$\$

Pyramids Cafe

3151 Calhoun St.

861-9602

Pyramids offers range of Middle Eastern dishes from more familiar hummus dip, falafel, Greek salads and stuffed grape leaves to appetizers like musabaha, a blend of hummus with whole chick peas, garlic, and hot pepper. Entrees include chicken and beef shawarma, beef or lamb shish kebabs, and kafta kebabs using a mix of ground lamb with parsley, garlic, and onion. No reservations. Delivery after 5 p.m. Lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards and local checks. \$

Riccobono Panola Street Cafe \*\*\*

7801 Panola St.

314-1810

Standard breakfast fare is spiced up with the Sausalito omelet, packed with spinach, garlic, mushrooms, shallots, and mozzarella cheese. Or go all-American with ham and cheese. House specialties include eggs Benedict and eggs Sardou. Lunch options include burgers, red beans and rice, and liver and onions served with grits and toast. No reservations. Breakfast and lunch daily. Credit cards. \$

Rue de la Course

1140 S. Carrollton Ave.

861-4343

The coffee shop offers a full range of house-roasted coffee and espresso drinks, layered lattes and specialty teas. There is also a selection of pastries, croissants, cakes, biscotti and cookies. Sandwiches start with a choice of breads, including dark black forest and seven grain bread, meats like roast beef, turkey, or chicken salad and a range of toppings like peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and sprouts and a choice of cheese. No reservations. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Cash only. \$

Saltwater Grill \*\*\*

1340 S. Carrollton Ave.

324-6640

There's a special every night at Saltwater Grill and Mondays are always a good option with 50-cent oysters on the half shell. Lunch brings a selection of fried seafood po-boys, red beans and rice, hamburgers and grilled chicken. New menu items include grilled fish with cherry tomato salsa, chicken etouffee and blackened redfish. The restaurant's new market features boiled seafood by the pound. Reservations accepted for five or more. Lunch and dinner Mon.-Sat. Brunch Sunday. Credit cards. \$\$

Sara's \*\*\*

724 Dublin St.

861-0565

Among the Riverbend's cluster of restaurants is Sara's, which has an ambitious menu of blended Creole and Asian flavors. Start with crawfish egg rolls and samosas, and then tempt your palate with pressed muscovy duck that is grilled and served with a port plum wine reduction sauce. Look for dishes like pepper-crust pork chops, honey-ginger scallops or Malaysian steamed mussels in savory garlic white wine broth. Reservations recommended. Lunch Tue.-Fri., dinner Tue.-Sat. Credit cards and checks. \$\$

Station 8801

8801 Oak St.

861-9293

What could be more casual than a restaurant trying to resemble its past life as a filling station? Just as you might expect, there's plenty of good hearty food — burgers, steak sandwiches and sweet potato fries — that most grease monkeys and hungry diners would enjoy. The 8-oz. Angus beef burger is served with chips or a choice of fries, sweet potato fries or onion rings. The 10-oz. filet is served with spicy potatoes. No reservations. Lunch, dinner and late-night Tue.-Sat. Credit cards. \$

Ted's Frostop

3100 Calhoun St.

861-3615

You can still come by for a frosty cold mug of root beer at this vintage collegiate drive-in, but there's more to the place than memories. The parking lot is usually full, but the service is quick, so you won't have to wait too long for a hot plate of red beans and rice. Lunch and dinner offerings include dishes like spaghetti and meatballs or Salisbury steak. There's still drive-through service for pick-up orders. No reservations. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Credit cards. \$

Uptown Cajun

7708 Maple St.

304-7256, <http://www.uptowncajun.com>

Open "till the crawfish go home," Uptown Cajun gives regulars plenty of reasons to stand up and shout "Aieeee!" The large bar keeps the good times rolling with drink specials through the week, and for \$25, you can enjoy The Uptown Ragin' Cajun: an assorted platter of bayou delicacies like jambalaya, crawfish, oysters, catfish, frog legs, soft-shell crab and gator. A lagniappe menu provides corn dogs and chicken tenders for petite Cajuns. No reservations. Lunch, dinner and late-night daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. Credit cards. \$\$



Ye Olde College Inn \*\*\*

3000 S. Carrollton Ave.

866-3683

A New Orleans tradition since 1933, the College Inn is now operated by the Blancher family of Mid City Lanes Rock 'N' Bowl fame and is in a new location right next door to its original building. And that's not all that's changed. While the menu still features po-boys. The kitchen turns out creations like barbecue shrimp and broiled speckled trout with a pecan pesto sauce topped with lump crabmeat. Reservations accepted for parties of six or more. Dinner Tue.-Sat. Credit cards. \$\$